

Februay 20, 2012

Hello,

I am sending this on behalf of The Farm Hill School Family Resource Center in Middletown, CT. I understand that the governors newly released budget plan calls for a 5% budget cut of FRC funding for FY12 and FY13. I know we can count on your support to keep this program going. Please continue to support and fund Family Resource Centers throughout Connecticut. This program provides valuable programs for my family and families in our school community.

Below is the letter I wrote when my children were in the FRC toddler program in 2009;

The Farm Hill Resource center has been my saving grace and lifeline to the community and it would truly be a loss to the community that it serves if the program is not funded. I have a son entering Kindergarten at Farm Hill in the fall and have attended the resource center since he turned one. The Farm Hill Resource center and its programs will make this transition seamless and for that I am grateful. They have provided me with useful information about day cares, preschools, birth to three and other programs available.

My other son has attended playgroup since he was only days old. He has been a toe walker since he started walking and has been evaluated by birth to three. I had been concerned about this issue for some time and the resource center has been very helpful with their observations of his physical and emotional growth. Both of my boys have learned social skills and have made lifelong friends as a result of attending the program. It is not only for the children, it is also a forum for moms, dads and grandparents to share ideas, give advice and help each other through the toddler years. I cannot stress enough how valuable a program this is, I am fortunate that I get the benefit of it by living in the Farm Hill district. It really should be available in more of the schools instead of being taken away.

Now, fast forward 2 1/2 years and I still feel as strongly about the positive impact that the FRC has on the community, the school and the parents and students that utilize its services. I am on the PTA board, a volunteer in my son's classrooms and work closely with the FRC staff. They attend the monthly scheduled PTA meetings. My sons, ages 7 and 5, are currently

enrolled at Farm Hill school. The FRC successfully transitioned them from preschool to Kindergarten during the registration process and with a special summer play date. During this play date, they meet their teachers, visited the school and receive a book about Kindergarten. These programs are established to make the transition as smoothly and seamless as possible. Both my sons have participated in special reading and arts programs that the FRC offers during their recess. These include, Cook with a Book, Authors Club, Art, and Nature Club. These are the only **special** programs that they have participated in during their time at Farm Hill. What I have come to realize in the past seven years is that the FRC staff is equally concerned about our children's success at school as we are as parents.

With all the media attention that the school has received in the past months, special programs and services are being introduced and several of which have been implemented or will be run by the FRC. I believe that the reduced funding will only further negatively impact the future and success of Farm Hill School and will negate all the hard work of this staff.

Sincerely,

Sonia Konopka